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House Passes Marriage Tax Relief

The act would benefit over 70,000 married couples in the 2nd District

(Washington)- Today, the House passed the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001- a reform of the so-called Marriage Tax penalty. According to a report by the Heritage Foundation, over 70,000 married couples in Missouri's 2nd Congressional District would receive a \$1,400 tax break. "Couples, who often work more than four months of the year just to pay their tax bills, should not be penalized by the government for being married," said Akin (R-Mo.) who is an original cosponsor of the bill.

The bill would also double the per-child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000 by 2006, and increase it to \$600 retroactively. According to the report, the families of over 150,000 children in the 2nd District would benefit from the increased child tax credit. "Families need to be encouraged. The increase in the per-child tax credit is real relief for those who need it the most," commented Akin.

The Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act (H.R.6) is similar to legislation that was vetoed by President Clinton. "Marriage penalty tax relief is an idea that is well overdue, and with the present administration it will soon be a reality," said Akin.

According to a Heritage Foundation study last year, over 500,000 married couples in Missouri are adversely affected by the so-called Marriage tax. The report states that over 25 million families are penalized nationally.

H.R. 6 would provide marriage tax penalty relief for over six million seniors in 2002 and over nine million seniors in 2010. "This not only helps newlyweds, but it helps many seniors. No one should be taxed for being married," stated Akin.